

The CIDOC Documentation Standards Group meeting in London, 1999

minutes

The meeting was attended by more than thirty people. Many of them new members. Topics under discussion included:

- Presentation of work done on the object-oriented Conceptual Reference Model (CRM) and current state of affairs re submission to ISO TC46
- Role and organisation of the group
- Discussion of future plans and projects, including:
 - -CRM correlation testbed project
 - -Update of terminology resources
 - -Incorporation of the International Terminology Working Group
- Nomination of people responsible for running new projects

Presentation of the Conceptual Reference Model

Nick Crofts explained the current status of the model and the implications of its submission to ISO. Martin Doerr explained some of the theoretical background to the model, its role and uses as a domain ontology.

A number of proposed modifications to the model were approved by the group. After further discussion, mostly concerning distribution rights and CIDOC's continued participation in developing the model, the group unanimously approved submission of the model to ISO. This has since taken place and the model is currently in the initial stages of evaluation under ISO's 'fast track' procedure.

Role and organisation of the group

As its name indicates, the group is concerned with all aspects of documentation standards relating to museums. However, partly for the benefit of members attending the meeting for the first time, the group reiterated and discussed its role and mode of operation. Four key points are worth underlining

- The group aims to provide a forum for discussion to promote the exchange of ideas and information about museum documentation standards.
- The group aims to identify and, where possible, provide access to sources of reference material.
- The group aims to participate in and when necessary undertake the development of new standards relevant to the field.
- Productive projects are generally handled by motivated sub groups who report back to the main group.

Future plans and projects

The group decided to set up a mailing list, *cidoc-docustrd*, which will be hosted by ICS FORTH. Although primarily intended for members of the group, the list will also be open to interested outsiders who may not be members of CIDOC.

Martin Doerr is leading a testbed project to look at correlation of the CRM with existing database applications and standards such as Spectrum. The anticipated benefits of this project are better comprehension of the model and enhanced

interoperability and integration. Several group members are now committed to working on this project.

The group is intending to work on an updated list of terminology resources, based on the CHIN terminology resource guide. This will be based on an online registry, providing users with references to documents, as well as the possibility of submitting and updating references, and writing comments.

CHIN and MDA have offered to co-host the resource, though overall responsibility will remain with CIDOC. A sub group will manage the registry and deal with editorial tasks. As befits a terminology project, the editorial group is currently engaged in defining basic meta terminology to help ensure consistent use of the registry.

Other plans

Integration of the International Terminology Working Group as part of the Documentation Standards Group was discussed and finally rejected after an impassioned defence of the need for the group's autonomy from Matthew Stiff. The ITWG will most likely become a new CIDOC group and meet during CIDOC conferences.

Plans for a volume of essays on terminology and for the development of terminology for sub collections and groups of objects were brought up but not sufficiently discussed.

Nick Crofts

Chair, Documentation Standards Group